

When students **Share Ideas** they write, speak, and listen to deepen their understanding of texts by examining language structures and engaging in verbal reasoning. They produce an array of texts across genres and formats to develop and demonstrate their expressive skills and communicate their perspective, their experience, and their understanding.

Routine | Writing

Writing

An encyclopedia is a reference work that provides information on a variety of topics. An **encyclopedia entry** is a single, informative article on one topic. Encyclopedia entries are brief, authoritative, and to the point.

ASSIGNMENT

Write an **encyclopedia entry** in which you explain the idea of “imperfect duty,” which is discussed in paragraph 16 of “The Moral Logic of Survivor Guilt.” Support your explanation with two types of information:

- details from Sherman’s editorial that help you understand the concept
- an anecdote, or brief story, that illustrates the concept. Use an anecdote that you develop rather than one from Sherman’s editorial.

Format the entry to help readers understand and locate information. For example, you might use section heads or bulleted lists to highlight and organize separate ideas.

Use Academic Vocabulary Try to use one or more of the academic vocabulary words in your writing: *evidence, credible, valid, formulate, logical*.

Purpose

Writing tasks deepen students’ understanding of the text, providing an opportunity for them to clarify and organize their thinking and apply the language skills they have acquired. Students write across a variety of engaging, authentic text types, including brief informational texts, evidence-supported argumentative pieces, and narrative-based works.

Routine | Writing to Compare

Writing to Compare

These two stories have similar settings, characters, and themes, but their plot development is different—one is linear and the other is nonlinear. The authors’ choices of plot structure shape how readers experience each story.

ASSIGNMENT

Write a **comparison-and-contrast essay** in which you explore the effects of two types of plot development—the linear approach of “Through the Tunnel” and the nonlinear approach of “The Seventh Man.”

- Consider how the linear structure of “Through the Tunnel” creates tension or suspense.
- Consider how the nonlinear structure of “The Seventh Man” deepens readers’ understanding of the main character.

Purpose

Writing to Compare develops and demonstrates students’ understanding of multiple texts. By comparing and contrasting works, students consider and synthesize multiple perspectives on the unit theme or explore how different authors establish and communicate their purpose for writing.

A Note about Share Ideas

Each Share Ideas task contributes to the Performance Tasks and Performance-Based Assessment. Writing, Speaking, and Listening across genres builds transferable skills: integrating evidence, explaining reasoning, and crafting sentences with impact. A narrative task might ask students to include an anecdote, but that same skill helps them develop evidence or reasoning in an argumentative piece later. Help students see the connection between the Share Ideas tasks and the later assessments.

Routine | Speaking & Listening

Speaking and Listening

A **pep talk** is a short speech meant to inspire and encourage an audience. Pep talks often use informal, emotional language.

ASSIGNMENT

Write and deliver a **pep talk** you might give to a group of firefighters, a Scout troop, or members of another service organization who have experienced a failure. Explain why it is important that they strive to fulfill their vows, but also forgive themselves when they fail. Include ideas from Sherman’s essay, explaining or simplifying them as needed.

Purpose

Because talk accelerates learning, **Speaking and Listening** is an essential part of every lesson. Share Ideas prompts provide opportunities for students to more formally prepare and present something to peers (and others) that gives their voices needed space to be shared and heard. As with writing, speaking and listening tasks encompass a wide array of engaging, authentic performances, including pep talks, podcasts, panel discussions, and oral interpretations.